

# SAWBRIDGEGWORTH TOWN COUNCIL

## MEETING OF THE TOWN COUNCIL Minutes

of the Meeting of Sawbridgeworth Town Council held at 19.30 in the Council Chamber, Sayesbury Manor, Bell Street on **Monday 25<sup>th</sup> October 2021**.

### Those present

Cllr Angela Alder  
Cllr Eric Buckmaster  
Cllr Ruth Buckmaster  
Cllr John Burmicz

Cllr Craig Chester  
Cllr Annelise Furnace  
Cllr Greg Rattey  
Cllr Nathan Parsad

### In attendance:

Christopher Hunt Town Clerk  
Joanne Sargant Town Project Manager

Chris Carter Bishop's Stortford Independent  
1 member of the public

The Town Mayor called a minute's silence to pay respects the murdered MP David Amess and read a poem for thought of the day

### 21/75 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

The Clerk explained that all apologies for absence are to be reported to him and reasons will be kept in confidence if requested. The apology will then be accepted through a members vote, if not accepted it will be recorded as an absence.

To receive and approve any apologies for absence  
Cllr D Royle – Apology received and accepted  
Cllr D Patel – Apology received and accepted  
Cllr P Gray – Absent  
Cllr P Coysten – Absent

### 21/76 DECLARATIONS OF PECUNIARY INTEREST

There were no declarations of Pecuniary Interests.

### 21/77 PUBLIC FORUM

There were no public questions received for this meeting

### 21/78 MINUTES

**Resolved:** To approve as a correct record the minutes of the Council Meeting held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (M04)  
*[prop Cllr A Alder; sec'd Cllr A Furnace]*

### Matters arising from these Minutes and not dealt with elsewhere on this Agenda.

One error was raised by Cllr R Buckmaster, in her update R Buckmaster had been recorded regarding the Green Canopy funding and that it should read E Buckmaster.

Clerk noted and error to be corrected.

### 21/79 PLANNING COMMITTEE

**Received and noted:** the minutes of the planning committee held on 27<sup>th</sup> September 2021 (P06)

**Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the planning committee held on 11<sup>th</sup> October 2021 (P07)

- 21/80 AMENITIES COMMITTEE**  
**Received and noted:** the draft minutes of the Amenities Committee held on 11th October 2021 (A02)
- 21/80 COUNCILLOR SAFETY REPORT**  
The Clerk raised Councillor safety as a point for debate after the subsequent murder of MP David Amess. He offered support to any concerns due to his policing experience and as a qualified security specialist.  
Cllr E Buckmaster explained on District and County Councillors have a shared safety protocol which may be of use to share as a precaution for councillors.  
Cllr Furnace welcomed the outreach made by the Clerk and Police and any online concerns should also be raised.  
Cllr Alder raised her thanks to the Police, PCSO Steven Blanks for contacting Councillors after the murder and ensuring everyone was safe and reassured.  
J Sargant raised that home addresses for Councillors are online, but the Town Council offices can be referred to if this is preferred.
- 21/83 MAYOR'S CORRESPONDENCE/COMMUNICATIONS**
- Continuing research into racism locally and would like this placed on items for future agendas.
  - Supporting businesses in the town. Concerns have been raised re Crumps Farm as they have been affected due to the developments in West Road. Enquiries will be made to seek compensation from the developers by the Mayor.
  - Another Sawbridgeworth business meeting is being organised due to the success of the last event.
  - Request to record that Adam Mackay of Mackays Property is an asset to the town and is very public spirited.
  - Ware Town Mayors Civic Service attended.

**REPRESENTATIVES REPORTS**

**Received and noted:** Representatives reports from:

- County Councillor E Buckmaster added:
  - Updates on Cultural strategy from around the district including Sawbridgeworth to understand the gaps in access to arts and culture.
  - Opened Grange Paddocks Sports Centre with Colin Jackson and two other Olympic athletes.
  - COP 26 has linked local events including an eco fayre at County Hall with various business displaying sustainable and energy saving items.
  - Online web map of eco events and this will continue in to the new year.
  - The repair work has started on the railings outside the New Mexico London Road.
  - Sheering Mill Lane no entry is moving to statutory consultation
  - Fairway double yellow lines are progressing and designers are being briefed for Bullfields yellow lines to then go out to consultation.
  - Wychford Drive resurfacing has been delayed but should go ahead in March.
  - The 20mph designs for the South East quadrant in Sawbridgeworth should be ready in three to four weeks and the project progressed.
  - Bullfields and West Road areas are also to be explored for 20mph restrictions
  - Road closures on West Road are to remain on until the end of November but all contractors are working in a coordinated way to reduce the time the road is closed.

*Questions*

Cllr Furnace, regarding the Covid recovery funding, what would this mean in practice for Sawbridgeworth and can local groups apply.

Cllr E Buckmaster explained many were County wide funding streams but will check for local applications

- District Councillor Alder added:
  - Apologised for no report as she has had car issues restricting her attendance at meetings.
- District Councillor R Buckmaster added:
  - Attended the Grange Paddock tour.
  - Cultural strategy meeting attended with Cllr Royle which may offer ideas.

*Questions*

Cllr Furnace, regarding the Champions project relaunch is it the same as the local project.

Cllr R Buckmaster stated it was similar but district wide, also has taken over as champion for young people and will be looking at other towns and villages especially those without youth clubs to see what they do for young people.

- District Councillor Burmicz added:
  - Wanted to raise his concerns at derisory comments on Facebook regarding the Mayors engagement in the community and offered his support for his excellent work locally and during lockdown.
  - Would like to support Bob Reed with field work

- Also raised his concerns for Crumps Farm.
- Herts Police
  - PC Marshall:
    - The new Chief Inspector Dave Cook has started this week
    - No increase in volume crime, one night had seen an issue of shed and vehicle crime and a suspect has been remanded in custody due to the local Ring doorbell footage.
    - Budgens Robbery, suspect still outstanding but work continues
    - Community Voice event is being held 28<sup>th</sup> October at Vantorts Park 12:00 – 14:00
    - Coffee with a Cop will return to the Library to increase engagement.
    - Priority setting will take place in the first week in December
    - Concerns locally are road safety and speeding and is completing speed enforcement.
    - The Adolescent Intervention Team (AIM) team has started, a referral system for young people who may need extra support.
    - A community Protection Warning has been issued to prevent a male begging and causing local issues.
    - Officers are on duty on specific Halloween duty to prevent ASB.
- Other Representatives –
  - Councillor R Buckmaster:
    - Update on SYPRC last meeting cancelled due to illness but rearranged for 26<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Trees are being delivered next month and asking Bob Reed for advice where to plant them and getting YC involved as part of the Queens green canopy. Wi-Fi should be fitted this week and once complete exploring the fitting of CCTV.
    - Apple day went well with over 700 bottles filled.
  - Councillor Furnace:
    - The 6<sup>th</sup> November 2021 the COP26 climate change film will be shown in Bullfields free of charge.
    - Bob Reed is completing an informal meeting of the Citizen Science Group on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 looking at lichens in the orchard and Pishiobury Park.

## **21/85 TOWN CLERKS REPORT**

- CCTV is looking at being expanded and the Bell Street Camera on Church House to be fitted over the next few weeks to address concerns of ASB
- CAB are supplying the town council with a laptop and phone for referral to be made
- Essex Parish Councils have been contacted regarding development
- CommComm, Wrenbridge have asked to meet Councillors as part of local consultation. It was agreed CommComm were to be invited to address the Planning Committee meeting on the 15<sup>th</sup> November 2021.
- Town Green, awaiting a response from East Herts District Council
- EV chargers, awaiting a response from East Herts District Council

**21/86 TOWN PROJECT MANAGERS REPORT**

- Remembrance Sunday plans are progressing

*Questions*

Cllr Parsad enquired how the Christmas Fayre was progressing  
Joanne Sargant stated lots of interest with local businesses wanting to get involved and pitch prices being reviewed.

Plans are progressing well with different points for events to take place to prevent large groups forming at one location.

Cllr Alder praised Joanne on the work to get the event back up and running after the lockdown.

Cllr R Buckmaster asked why the Lights of Love event had been arranged for a Friday rather than a Saturday.

Joanne Sargant explained this was the choice of the event organisers.

The Mayor raised the excellent response from businesses who wanted involvement in the Christmas event from Station Road and The Maltings.

**21/87 DEPOSIT & CONSULTATION DOCUMENTS**

***Noted:*** The Deposit and consultation document

**21/88 FINANCIAL REPORT**

***Noted:*** The current Financial Report

**21/89 ACCOUNTS FOR PAYMENT**

***Noted and Approved:*** Accounts for payment

**21/90 ITEMS FOR FUTURE AGENDAS**

Mayor Rattey - Racism research

Cllr Parsad – Wrenbridge to be added

The Mayor concluded the meeting by congratulating Cllr Parsad on his recent marriage

Meeting ended at 20.26 hrs

Poem read by Mayor Greg Rattey

There was no time to say goodbye.  
But this I ask - please do not cry.  
Remember me as you think best.  
Remember the happy times, but forget the rest.

Look for me and I'll be there,  
And you will find me everywhere:  
In the gentle touch of the breeze  
That cools the skin or swirls the leaves.

In the scent and color of flowers  
That gave me such happy hours.  
On sunny days, under sunny skies of blue,  
Just think of me, I'll be with you.

In winter when there's cloud or mist,  
The rain will give to you my kiss.  
As wood smoke lingers in the air,  
Look for me and I'll be there.

Where seagulls cry above the sea  
And surf rolls in so endlessly.  
Among towering trees that soar above,  
In all these things that I once loved.

Look for me and I'll be there.  
You'll feel my presence EVERYWHERE!

*Councillor Greg Rattey SRH.  
LGBT+ and Human Rights Campaigner.*